

REMARKS

Claims 14, 17-20 and 23-27 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 14, 17 and 18 are amended and a replacement Fig. 4 is provided. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. THE DRAWINGS MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a)

The Office Action objects to the drawings for failing to show certain features of the invention. Applicant submits an informal replacement Fig. 4 in response to the objections. No new matter is added.

Replacement Fig. 4 shows the retaining means feature.

With regard to the objection based upon the failure to show and label the first slides (claim 14), Applicants respectfully submit that the first slides are opposing slides at each station, only one of which is shown.

With regards to the objection based upon the spindle drive, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is obviated by the amendments to claim 17 as described below.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIM 18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Office Action rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 18 is amended so as to clarify the operation of the spindle drive.

III. CLAIMS 14, 17-20 AND 23-27 MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF 35 U.S.C. 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Office Action rejects claims 14, 17-20 and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second

paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 14, 17 and 18 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. It is respectfully submitted that claims 14, 17 and 18 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

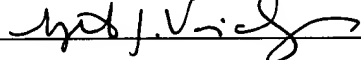
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnest solicited. Should the Examiner believe that any thing further is necessary to expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:

Appendix with corrected Figures



*not approved
when 03/03/04*

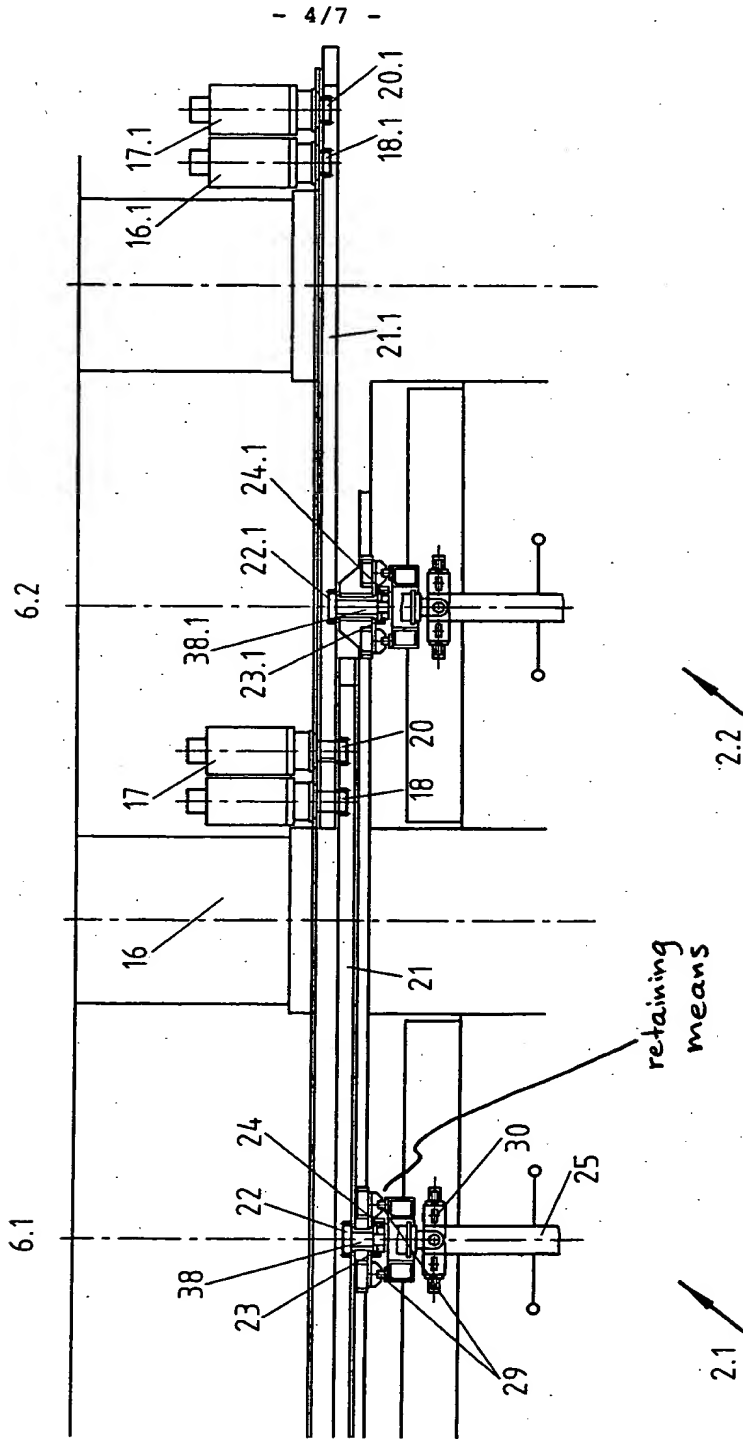


Fig. 4

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